to the Chief Engineer, the whole position is this. There is the Konath River which goes to Karingachira. It goes even further down and joins the backwaters somewhere about Poothotta and Murinjupuzha. Now the Konath river comes very near to Mulanthuruthi. It is only about three or four furlongs. My proposal is to connect Mulanthuruthi with that river. This was a long-felt grievance. I am sure the Chief Engineer will have records to show that the people have prayed for that. I pray that a thodu may be opened so that Mulanthuruthi may be connected with Konath River. If the thodu cannot be extended as far as Mulanthuruthi at least it may be extended as far as possible.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* On a point of information may I know whether the thodu if constructed will connect Mulanthuruthi with Cochin Harbour?

*__Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon__ *(Chief Engineer):* It will. But it has got one obstruction of its own. That is the Konath Bund. From the month of Vrischigam the Konath river will be bunded in its curves and therefore through boat traffic will be impossible. But it will help considerably to bring Mulanthuruthi nearer to the Harbour by means of boats. This question was considered many years ago and a cost report of about Rs. 15,000 has been prepared for this work. It has not been done. But I shall see that this question is taken up again.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Cut Motion No. 22.

To cut a canal to the backwaters to let off excess water from Kizhakkumpurampadam etc., etc.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I rise to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 73,500 for Irrigation by Re. 1—to bring to the notice of the Government the need for cutting a canal to the backwater to let off excess water from Kizhakkumpurampadam lying in the eastern portion of Irumpanam, Thiruvankulam, Kadungamangalam and Kureekad and from the Kaniyavallippadam.* In moving this motion I have to make clear one or two points. Kaniyavallippadam can be located by the House if I refer to Karingachira just on the western side of the Hill Palace. There is excess of water there during the rainy season. There has been a long-felt cry to let off that excess water. I may also say that the waters from Chithrapuzha also find a way to this padam, which in its totality consists of over 50,000 paras of paddy lands. It may be even a lakh of paras of paddy lands from Chithrapuzha. All these niloms are affected by this excess water. Really we may cut this motion into two. First of all a cannal is required from Kaniyavalli. Then another canal has to be cut from the padam which lies on the eastern side of Thiruvankulam, i. e., from Irumpanam to Chottanikkara. During the monsoon these fields will look like a backwater. The

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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depth may come to eight or ten feet. Therefore, it is now a one crop land. If the canal is cut they can be converted into two crop lands.

The further advantage is that there will be a canal for communication from the backwater to Thekkumbhagam and Nadama, if a canal is cut to Kaniyavallippadam. From all these aspects, I press it to the attention of the House and of the Government that it is imperatively necessary. I am told that there has been agitation about this matter from 1084 onwards. For want of time I am not adverting to the facts mentioned in a Memorandum I have with me relating to this question. I commend this motion to the acceptance of the Government.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura)*: Sir, I support this motion. In supporting the motion, I have only to remind the hon'ble member in charge of the Public Works Department of several assuring replies given to this side of the House. As the hon'ble mover himself pointed out this question of opening a canal from the river that runs east of Thiruvamkulam and Nadama villages to the backwater, is a question not new to this Hon'ble House. Neither is it new to the Government. I need only point out one of the replies that the Chief Engineer made on the floor of this House, on 4th August 1933, when a cut motion was introduced by Mr. Petta was discussed. This is a thodu which affects about 2,500 acres of paddy fields and due to the annual innundation almost all these fields are filled up with water and the crops therein destroyed. If heavy rains continue to pour for three or four days, there is no sufficient outlet for all the water collected and the consequence is that the poor agriculturists suffer. I may, at this juncture, point out that there was a slight difference of opinion among the people as to the exact alignment which this canal should take. Three alignments were suggested and a difference of opinion really existed among the people. Probably the Government took advantage of that and kept the matter pending so long. The Chief Engineer said "I may state for the information of this House that after we received several representations regarding it this year, I have ordered my Special Irrigation Staff to consider the comparative merits of all the three schemes. I have asked them to send me complete estimates and reports within three months and I shall be able to report to the Government on this question within four months. And I can assure the hon'ble members that we shall do all that is possible to relieve the distress as early as possible". This is the assurance that the Chief Engineer gave this House on that occasion. There were also several other instances. I do not think there is any necessity to point out those assurances here. My only submission to the Government is that this is a matter that was before this House for the last

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10 or 12 years. I think it was a matter raised as early as 1083, and since, the Government are fully aware of the absolute necessity of a thodu like this in order to protect the agriculturists of these two villages. I believe that the Government would at least take up this matter very seriously and do all that is possible in the near future.

*Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* As the hon'ble member has stated the question was before the Government for the last 30 years or more and I have completely investigated, and the scheme is now before the Government. We are considering the possibility of executing the work as early as possible. But in this cut motion it makes mention of two canals, i. e., one from the catchment of the Chithrapuzha to the Kaniyavalli River and the other from Kaniyavalli to the backwaters. The present trouble is of the floods in the Kaniyavallippadam. If more floods are taken into this area from Chithrapuzha the present condition, I believe, will grow worse. So I would not recommend the construction of a canal from Mamala to Kaniyavalli. I have also written to the Government on this aspect and the question is before the Government and we will be taking up this work as soon as funds permit. The cost will come to about a lakh and fifty thousand rupees.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* May I know whether the Government has already decided upon the alignment?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is the one passing near the Trippunittura market and that question has not been shelved. It is being considered by the Government.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I have only one submission to the Government. The people of the locality agree that a canal from Mamala to Kaniyavalli will be more useful. That is their idea.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There is more of Travancore lands in Mamala area.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* There are Cochin lands also. Anyway I want to bring it to the notice of the Government that the people of the locality think that a canal from [illegible] will not affect [illegible] if there is a canal from there also. They pray that a thodu may be cut from Mamala right to Kaniyavalli and from there to the west.

The motion was, by leave. withdrawn.

Cut Motion No. 23.

To improve the amenities of travelling to Mattancheri from Ernakulam by boat.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* I beg to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 73,500 for Irrigation by Re. 1. (to discuss the*

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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